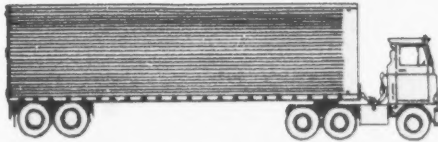


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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM RESEARCH AND ECONOMICS DIVISION
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MARCH TRUCK TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES

The seasonally adjusted monthly index of intercity truck tonnage decreased 3.6 points (2.4 percent) during March 1981, the American Trucking Associations announced today. The adjusted index was 148.9p for the month of March, compared to 152.5r for the month of February 1981. The index was 8.6 points (or 5.5 percent) lower than it was in March 1980. The final adjusted index for tonnage during the year 1967 is taken as 100 to start the chain link index.

These findings are based on the ATA Research and Statistical Services Department's monthly survey of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight with monthly responses representing more than one-third of the tonnage moved. The month-to-month percent change chain link has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influences and variations dues to the different number of business days each month.

The unadjusted tonnage data for the United States and for each region for the latest month (p) are shown on the reverse side. Based upon this unadjusted data, March tonnage increased 11.7 percent compared to revised February and decreased 3.0 percent compared to March of last year.

Cumulative tonnage for the first three months of 1981 decreased 11.5 percent compared to the same period in 1980.

p - preliminary r - revised f - final

PLEASE NOTE: These tonnage index figures are based on month-to-month percentage change figures. This chain link is then adjusted seasonally and for trading days according to formulas supplied by the Department of Commerce. For more information on the techniques involved and the use of this index, see the ATA Department of Economics' "Motor Carrier Special Report" of September 1977.

UNADJUSTED MARCH TRUCK TONNAGE BY REGION

Region	Cos.	March 1981p	March 1980f	Percent Change 3/81p over 3/80f	Feb. 1981r	Percent Change 3/81p over 2/81r
New England	16	230,695	254,035	- 9.2	210,049	+ 9.8
Middle Atlantic	39	984,401	1,016,185	- 3.1	885,450	+11.2
Central	52	1,654,314	1,844,819	-10.3	1,424,902	+16.1
Southern	45	1,487,781	1,563,961	- 4.9	1,401,119	+ 6.2
Northwestern	10	351,041	367,436	- 4.5	293,711	+19.5
Midwestern	23	517,350	567,521	- 8.8	473,711	+ 9.2
Southwestern	10	483,399	477,506	+ 1.2	433,398	+11.5
Rocky Mountain	11	249,228	269,106	- 7.4	215,144	+15.8
Pacific	13	582,323	621,126	- 6.3	516,677	+12.7
Total	219	6,540,532	6,981,695	- 6.3	5,854,161	+11.7

INDEX COMPARISONS

	March 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	March 1980	Monthly %Change 2/81 1/81	3/81 2/81	Yearly %Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted) ¹	148.9p	152.5r	153.1f	157.5f	-0.4r	- 2.4p	- 5.5
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	164.1p	146.9r	142.7f	169.2f	+2.9r	+11.7p	- 3.0
Industrial Production Index ² (total)	151.7	151.1	151.5	152.1	-0.3	+ 0.4	- 0.3
Manufacturers (total)	151.0	150.4	151.1	151.9	-0.5	+ 0.4	- 0.6
Nondurable	165.0	165.2	165.3	164.4	-0.1	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Durable	141.3	140.1	141.3	143.3	-0.9	+ 0.9	- 1.4
Retail Store Sales Index ² (adjusted)	356.1	355.8	351.1	317.9	+1.3	+ 0.1	+12.0
Producer Price Index ³ (unadjusted)	265.3	262.4	259.8	240.0	+1.0	+ 1.1	+10.5
Consumer Price Index ⁴ (unadjusted)	265.1	263.2	260.5	239.8	+1.0	+ 0.7	+10.6

p - preliminary r - revised f - final

¹Adjusted seasonally and for trading days.

²Seasonally adjusted.

³Finished goods (formerly wholesale Price Index).

⁴Goods and Services.

REVISED ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE

1967 = 100

The seasonal and trading day corrections have again been revised and refined for the monthly truck tonnage index. Based on these improved adjustment factors, the adjusted monthly index numbers have been revised for the latest five years. In many instances, the resultant change is nominal although some adjustments were relatively large in the most recent year (1980).

Year-to-year changes for 1981 will be computed utilizing the revised series.

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
January	145.3	160.1	164.3	192.9	163.5
February	147.7	162.8	174.2	198.9	156.7
March	149.3	162.5	176.1	202.3	157.5
April	148.3	166.5	192.0	145.0	150.5
May	152.7	164.5	181.9	187.6	141.7
June	152.6	166.2	180.3	186.7	140.4
July	155.7	168.1	178.0	186.3	136.0
August	155.3	168.5	182.6	175.7	141.4
September	156.2	168.2	183.5	174.8	146.6
October	154.2	166.8	189.0	172.9	147.4
November	155.9	166.4	187.3	171.5	150.9
December	156.1	170.5	190.6	169.2	153.0

ATA Department of Research & Statistical Services

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